I've been a sofware developer for almost 10 years.

In that time the options for the mainstream consumer seem to have dwindled.

On the plus side, I guess it's easier for someone to walk in off the street and get a computer that mostly works most of the time. There are no confusing choices to make as to which OS, wordprocessor, browser etc., it's all there and it all mostly works.

I guess it's like walking into a car yard and saying "I have $5000 to spend and I want a red one!". That simple!

I'm annoyed that people don't have the choice anymore, or rather, that the choice is glossed over so completely.Maybe I'm a tech-snob, expecting everyone to have the same understanding and appreciation of computers that I do. Why should you have to understand the internal combustion engine, and how to service it, just to buy a car?

The most charitable interpretation of some of Microsoft's actions are a desire to make things easier for the average consumer. Even if that were the intent, I think we've reached the point where the public at large is no longer served by this attitude.

I think computers have become complex enough to warrant some respect/appreciation from the users. I don't think we can force consumers to have this appreciation (licenses to own and operate a computer? not likely, or even desirable!). However, when a mayor company completely disregards the consequences of their actions again and again in an effort for market share (mostly by adding features that more often than not result in security nighmares), then they should be help accountable in some way.

I can walk into a shop and buy a car powerful enough to be incredibly dangerous in my novice hands (and I'll probably end up wrapped around a tree). I can buy a computer, connect it to the internet and become a source of a DDOS attack. The difference is that, at least the car manufacturer had to make some attempt to make the car safe to drive. Microsoft seems under no such obligation.

Though the cracked computer does not threaten life directly, how much longer will this be the case as more utilities are vulnerable to attacks from the net? how many lives would be at risk of major powerstations failed due to a DDOS my missions of compromised systems? OK, maybe that's stretching things a bit far, but what about the cost to industry?

The email became a lot longer than I planned, and (until now) I even avoided mentioning the L word ("LINUX", there, I've said it!). I've tried to present what I feel are arguments applicable to the majority of computer users, there are many more applicable to computer nerds like myself.

I've you've gotten this far, I'd like to sincerely thank you for taking the time to read

my email.

with friendly regards,

Thomas Sprinkmeier

P.S. I know it's customary to give 2 cents worth of opinion. I took the liberty to convert from Australian dollars
;-)

This message was sent using SE Net Webmail.
http://webmail.senet.com.au/

CC: samntom@senet.com.au@inetgw